

**To:** Belle, Kara[Belle.Kara@epa.gov]; Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy[Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Fitz-James, Schatzi[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov]; Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Leclerc, Russell[Leclerc.Russell@epa.gov]; Murray, Bill[Murray.Bill@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Lemon, Mollie[Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Deitz, Randy  
**Sent:** Thur 4/14/2016 9:15:27 PM  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

In our response to this guy will someone explain that people have not been pre-August 5<sup>th</sup> release, and are not now, drinking raw river water from the Animas or San Juan Rivers. Localities that draw their water from these rivers for drinking water purposes treat the water before it goes out through the distribution system to customers - - just like the other thousands of municipalities throughout the U.S. that use river water for drinking water. And once again, that the Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> release represented a tiny fraction of the billions of gallons of contaminants that have been discharged into those rivers for decades, thus, any risk posted by mine drainage discharges existed long before the Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> release. And finally, the Bonita Peak Mining District NPL proposal is not the result of the GK Mine release - - the releases sought to be addressed from the other 47 mines in the proposal I have to believe far outweigh the sole contribution from GK. He is trying to say the NPL proposal, is in effect, solely a GK related action - - which is just factually wrong.

Randy Deitz

Attorney Advisor

Office of Land and Emergency Management

(202) 566-0197

**From:** Belle, Kara  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:38 PM  
**To:** Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Leclerc, Russell <Leclerc.Russell@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Peterson, Cynthia <Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; Lemon, Mollie <Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Hi Paula,

This is also related to the Daily Caller inquiry I just sent you. Please also send response to Nancy Cohen, Suzanne wells and Schatzi Fitz-James.

Thanks

Kara Belle

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(703)603-8815

**From:** Lemon, Mollie

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:31 PM

**To:** Belle, Kara <[Belle.Kara@epa.gov](mailto:Belle.Kara@epa.gov)>; Gartner, Lois <[Gartner.Lois@epa.gov](mailto:Gartner.Lois@epa.gov)>; Wells, Suzanne <[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy <[Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Deitz, Randy <[Deitz.Randy@epa.gov](mailto:Deitz.Randy@epa.gov)>; Glikes, Michael <[Glikes.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:Glikes.Michael@epa.gov)>; Hull, George <[Hull.George@epa.gov](mailto:Hull.George@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Hi all – just received this addition from the reporter:

I also just found this sentence in the document relating to drinking water:

"This contamination threatens not only human food chain fisheries, wetlands and wildlife habitat, including endangered species habitat, but also has the potential to impact downstream drinking water supplies serving thousands of people."

How is the river safe if water supplies for thousands of people are threatened?

*Mollie Lemon*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

*Office of Media Relations*

202.343.9859

**From:** Lemon, Mollie

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:52 PM

**To:** Belle, Kara <[Belle.Kara@epa.gov](mailto:Belle.Kara@epa.gov)>; Gartner, Lois <[Gartner.Lois@epa.gov](mailto:Gartner.Lois@epa.gov)>; Wells, Suzanne <[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy <[Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Deitz, Randy <[Deitz.Randy@epa.gov](mailto:Deitz.Randy@epa.gov)>; Glikes, Michael <[Glikes.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:Glikes.Michael@epa.gov)>; Hull, George <[Hull.George@epa.gov](mailto:Hull.George@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Hi all –

Incoming Gold King inquiry below, with a deadline of 5 pm today. Could you please also loop in and coordinate with the appropriate regional staff?

Thanks in advance!

Mollie

*Mollie Lemon*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

*Office of Media Relations*

202.343.9859

**From:** Ethan Barton [<mailto:ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:25 PM

**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>; Lemon, Mollie <[Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov](mailto:Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Bonita Peak Mining District HRS

Here's the link to the HRS document, for your convenience:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1769520.pdf>

On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 2:24 PM, Ethan Barton <[ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org](mailto:ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org)> wrote:

Hello,

I have some questions regarding the Bonita Peak Mining District HRS Documentation Record.

I would like to know why the drinking water threat was not scored. The document shows that ground water migration pathway was not scored because of the low population density and because there are "no municipal wells located within the four mile radius that serve as potable supplies."

However, Silverton, Colorado, Farmington, New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation have all had their water supplies affected by the Gold King Mine release, which suggests water supplies are, in fact, impacted by the Bonita Peak Mining District.

Additionally, both the human food chain and the environmental threats scored the max values. How is it that the EPA claims the river is safe for humans and that drinking water is not affected, yet the human food chain is heavily threatened?

Given the threat to the human food chain, have residents who live in the area who consume wildlife, such as fishers in Silverton, Colorado, been warned of this threat and been given guidance?

In sum:

1. Why was drinking water not assessed in the HRS, given the details provided?
2. How can the human food chain be so heavily threatened, but the drinking water, as well as the Animas River, is safe for humans?
3. Has the EPA warned local residents and provided guidance on the threat to the human food chain?

My deadline is end of business today.

Thanks,

Ethan

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Ethan Barton

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